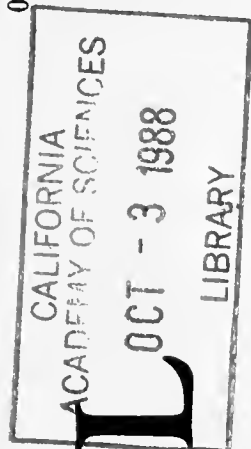




THE GULL



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Golden Gate Audubon Society

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THE FATE OF THE ARCTIC

The core calving ground of the Porcupine Caribou Herd is the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The 165,000 animal herd migrates between northwestern Canada and the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge, where all their calves are born each year. This coastal plain is currently being considered by the US Congress for oil exploration and development. The area is extremely fragile and is incompatible with petroleum development. This development also threatens the subsistence economy of the Gwinch'in People. The Gwinch'in are a Native American nation of several thousand whose culture and economy centers around the Porcupine Caribou Herd.

Richard Dale, Director of the **Coalition for the Arctic Refuge**, will discuss these issues through a visual medium at our Oct. 13th meeting. The program promises to be a very up-to-date, first hand account. . . I had a hard time reaching Richard about the program, since he was in the Arctic all summer, and "took thousands of slides". His presentation usually consists of a video, but when I talked to Richard he was very excited about putting together a more personalized (and, yes, condensed) slide show of his experiences over the past year.

Please join us on Thursday, Oct. 13 at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be in San Francisco at the Josephine D. Randall Junior Museum, 199 Museum Way, near Buena Vista park (see map. p. 131).

—JOELLA BUFFA
Program Chairman

SHOREBIRD AFTERNOON

Save Saturday afternoon, Oct. 15 for a special treat from Audubon. Pete Meyers, National Audubon Society Vice President for Science, will speak at the Oakland Museum's Theatre at 2 p.m. His talk is titled "Great Exertions and Immense Gluttony: Shorebirds Across the Americas". He founded and helps coordinate the Western Shorebird Reserve Network, an organization promoting international cooperative management and protection of habitats critically important to migratory shorebirds.

OCT. 22 IS BIRD SEED SALE DAY (p. 139)

FIELD TRIP CALENDAR

Saturday, October 1—Beginners' Trip to Aquatic Park and Golden Gate National Recreation Area, San Francisco. See p. 111, *The Gull* for September for details.

Sunday, October 2—Sunol Regional Park. See p. 112 for details.

Saturday, October 8—Alameda and San Leandro Shoreline. See p. 111 for details. (Note: Correct day is **Saturday, Oct. 8**).

Saturday, October 8—First Annual Point Reyes National Seashore All-day Fall Birding Blitz. (Joint activity: GGAS/Nat. Park Service.) Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Five Brooks Trail-head parking lot, approximately five miles south of Olema on Hwy. 1. We will bird Five Brooks Pond Area, Limantour Split, Drakes Beach, Chimney Rock, Point Reyes, ending at Bear Valley for a multi-habitat trip.

Bring water, food, and layer clothes for variable weather. Leader: Leon Abrams 459-6366 (work), 843-4107 (home). (✓).

Sunday, October 9—Beginners' Trip to Coyote Hills. See p. 112 for details.

Wednesday, October 12—Mini-trip to East Bay Shoreline. See p. 112 for details.

Saturday/Sunday, October 22-23—Morro Bay. Meet at 12 noon (three hours after high tide) at the Museum. Take Hwy. 101 to San Luis Obispo, then Hwy. 1 to Morro Bay. Take the first off-ramp, Morro Bay Blvd., and follow it to Main St. Then go south (left) to the Museum. It's on the right just beyond the Golf Course, and the

Campground is just another block. Nice birding in the area for those who get there early...also restrooms. We will bird the Audubon Overlook and around the Bay in Baywood Park.

Sunday—tour the Museum. (A group reservation is for 11:00 a.m.) There will be early birding Sunday at Montana De Oro State Park—should see vagrant warblers. A 9:30 or 10:00 a.m. brunch could be arranged at the Golf Course Restaurant near Montana De Oro. (Advance reservations are needed—call Hazel Houston.) Accommodations: Motel 6 (805) 772-5641; The Anchor (805) 772-3333; Best Westerns (3) (800-805/336-0707; Bed and Breakfast (805) 528-3973; Campground (800-805/444-7275. Make reservations early.

Bring lunches for Saturday and Sunday, comfortable shoes and adequate clothing. For a scenic trip home Sunday afternoon Hwy. 1 is suggested... by way of Hearst Castle (make your own tour reservations), Big Sur, and Carmel. Leaders: Lois and Wes Felmlee of Morro Bay Audubon, and Hazel Houston (635-7347). Call Hazel if you are going or have any questions. (Morro Bay Bird Alert: (805) 528-7182.) (✓)

Sunday, October 23—Pelagic Trip from Monterey Harbor. See p. 117. (✓)

Sunday, November 6—Beginners' Trip to Rodeo Lagoon. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Marin Headlands Ranger Station. Take Hwy. 101 across the Golden Gate Bridge, then immediate exit on Alexander Ave. and turn left through the tunnel to Marin Headlands. Follow the road to the ranger station at

the beach. Bring liquids. We will walk about one mile on level ground around the lagoon. We will be looking for gulls, egrets, bitterns, and night herons. The trip will end around noon. Leader: Jerry Scott (752-5835). (✓)

Wednesday, November 9—Mini-trip to Aquatic Park, Berkeley, and other nearby areas. Meet at 9:30 a.m. in the northwest corner of Spenger's parking lot to carpool. We should see returning shorebirds and migratory ducks. Lunch optional; rain cancels trip. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (351-9301) and Jean-Marie Spoelman.

Carpooling arrangements will be attempted for trips marked (✓). Call Russ Wilson (524-2399).

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

IN MEMORIAM

Friends of Audubon Canyon Ranch are deeply saddened by the loss of two devoted supporters.

Long time Board member, past President, and a true and compassionate leader, Tom Price, died in June. Though Tom's contributions are many I will always remember the emphasis he placed on personally acknowledging the contributions of others. Though saying thank you seems like such a little thing, it is a big thing when it means spending time away from your family and business to write notes to hundreds of contributors per month. Thank you, Tom.

Karen Schwartz, wife of ACR General Manager Skip Schwartz, died in August. Karen's contributions to the ranch extended well beyond her role as bookstore manager where so many of us came to know her. Long time ACR supporters recall the weekends at the overlook she spent monitoring the heronry, and introducing us to the marvelous natural history of the Ranch. She was a long time supporter of our education programs, especially our ef-

forts to work with inner city children. Wife, mother, naturalist, educator, and straight forward purveyor of common sense Karen helped guide the Ranch for many years. ACR has established the Karen Schwartz Education Fund in her memory.

—DAN MURPHY

OBSERVATIONS

July 13 through August 23

Returning shorebirds provided lots of practice for participants in the BIG September San Francisco Bay shorebird census conducted by Point Reyes Bird Observatory. More observers were reporting age classes and distinguishing races of some species. An early wave of landbirds, which included a few vagrants, reached outer Pt. Reyes August 22. Pelagic trips out of Monterey, Bodega and San Francisco Bay in August contributed many sightings of expected summer pelagic species.

Grebe to Frigatebird

A Red-necked Grebe, rare in late summer, was off Ano Nuevo Point Aug. 21 (JM). The season's first Wilson's Storm-Petrels were four in Monterey Bay Aug. 21. Also, on the same trip, there were three to four Fork-tailed, three Least, 7000 Ashy and ten Black Storm-Petrels. An earlier Storm-Petrel flock out of Monterey Aug. 11 had four to six Black and forty Ashy Storm-Petrels, as well as nine Leach's Storm-Petrels (all SJ). One other Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel was reported off of Duxbury Reef July 21 (ToJ). A **Magnificent Frigatebird** was flying south over New Brighton State Beach July 20 (CKf).

Hérons through Goshawk

An immature Little Blue Heron found at the Stockton Sewage ponds July 15 may be a Little Blue Heron X Snowy

Egret hybrid (JM), and a Little Blue Heron X Snowy Egret hybrid was at Charleston Slough Aug. 7 (PJM). Over sixty White-faced Ibis were at Woodland Sugar Ponds Aug. 7 (JM). A Brant wandered to Hayward Landing July 22 (RJR). Fourteen Redhead and two Common Goldeneye at Abbott's Lagoon July 17 (LJP) were surprising in summer. A Harlequin Duck at Bolinas Lagoon Aug. 12 (DAH) was somewhat unseasonal. A female Black Scoter was at Johnson's Landing, Alameda Co., July 12-22 (RJR), far away from her breeding grounds and not exactly on her wintering grounds either. An adult Northern Goshawk over Hill 129 at the Marin Headlands Aug. 8 (CLF) heralded hawk migration.

Shorebirds

An adult Lesser Golden-Plover arrived at Limantour Estero July 16 (DeB); another adult, identified as *dominica*, was at Abbott's Lagoon July 30-31 (RS). Other Lesser Goldenes were: one at Abbott's Lagoon Aug. 6-7 (MLR, LJP), one *fulva* at Abbott's Lagoon Aug. 13 (DCR, MFe), and nine at Spaletta Plateau through Aug. 22 (JMC, RS). A Solitary Sandpiper reached Pescadero Marsh Aug. 4 (RSTh), while another, a juvenile, was at the Spaletta slop ponds Aug. 6 (LJP). The first adult Semipalmated Sandpiper noted in fall migration was one at Bolinas Sewage Ponds July 19 (PP). Juvenile Semipalmated Sandpipers followed soon after with one found at Pescadero Marsh July 25 (RSTh) and another nine reported throughout the area (mob). An adult Baird's Sandpiper found Abbott's Lagoon July 20 (PP), and one was at Moss Landing Visitor's Center July 21 (DR). The first juvenile Baird's was found at Abbott's Lagoon July 29 (RS, DAH), and another forty-

seven Baird's, only a few with age identification, were found throughout our area during the period (mob). An adult Pectoral Sandpiper was at Abbott's Lagoon July 24-27 (LJP, MSn). Others were found throughout the region, as follows: one at Mt. View Forebay Aug. 11 (PhR), two at Pescadero Marsh Aug. 12 and one Aug. 22 (RSTh), one at Limantour Beach Aug. 16 (JMR), and one at Spaletta Ranch Aug. 21 (BU). A juvenile Stilt Sandpiper was found at Pine Gulch Creek mouth Aug. 7 (RMS). A Short-billed Dowitcher at Stockton Sewage Ponds July 15 was unusual for that area (JM).

Jaegers through Puffins

Small numbers of Long-tailed Jaegers were found on most pelagic trips along our coast from Aug. 11 through Aug. 21 (SJ, ToJ). The largest number was five on a trip to Cordell Bank Aug. 14 (SJ). A South Polar Skua was found on a Monterey Bay pelagic trip July 23 (ToJ). Two to three Sabine's Gulls were seen on most pelagic trips (SJ, ToJ), but thirty Sabine's were reported on a Monterey pelagic trip July 23 (ToJ). An adult Arctic Tern was found at Abbott's Lagoon Aug. 7 (MBu), and another was twenty miles offshore on a Monterey pelagic trip Aug. 11 (SJ). Two Black Terns found Hayward Regional Shoreline Park July 23 (MLE). Two **Black Skimmers** were seen near Jetty Road at Moss landing July 24-27 (GFi, *fide* RER). Two Craveri's Murrelets were spotted from a pelagic boat out of Monterey Aug. 11 (SJ). Two unidentified murrelets, Xantus'/Craveri's type, were found on a trip out of Monterey Aug. 20 (SJ). This was a good year to see Horned Puffins off our Coast. **Six** were found: three from the Monterey area, (one just offshore), July 17-23 (*fide* DR, ToJ, RER *fide* DR); and three on SE Farallon Island

pelagic trips (ToJ). Another was found on a pelagic trip out of Crescent City July 10 (*fide* RAE).

Landbirds

One always has to be ready for the unusual in San Francisco. This summer it was an injured Yellow-billed Cuckoo which was found in the Marina district of San Francisco July 31 and taken to Marin Wildlife Center (*fide* DRe), and a nighthawk species (probably Lesser) which flew over Third Street July 25 (ASH).

A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was near the Moss Landing Visitors Center July 21 (*fide* DR). Purple Martins were regularly reported from Five Brooks during the period (BDP, JM, et al.), and up to twelve were seen there Aug. 7 with adults feeding young (MLR). Four Bank Swallows enjoyed the Davis Sewage Ponds Aug. 7 (JM).

Good numbers of western migrants, and a few vagrants were on the move early. An immature Red-eyed Vireo reached Nunes Ranch Aug. 22 (RS). An American Redstart graced Pine Gulch Creek July 23 (RS). A Northern Waterthrush was found near the town of Pescadero Aug. 22 (RSTh). A male Hooded Warbler lurked near the PRBO Palomarin field station Aug. 21 (*fide* DDeS). And a Canada Warbler found the Fish Docks Aug. 22 (RS). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak visited a Fairfax residence July 17 (SBu). An adult male Indigo Bunting was found near Laird's Slough bridge in Stanislaus Co. Aug. 2 (HMR) and remained at least through Aug. 7 (ERC).

A female Yellow-headed Blackbird was near Lake Merced Aug. 2 (MNo). A juvenile Red Crossbill was observed at the Buffalo Paddocks in Golden Gate Park July 16 (TeC), and several were at the Limantour Natural Area July 29 (RS). An Evening Grosbeak in Petaluma Aug. 13 (DN) provided an unusual summer record for Sonoma Co.

Observers: Stephen F. Bailey, Dennis Bromley (DeB), Scott Buchannan (SBu), Mark Butler (MBu), Eric R. Caine, Terry Coddington (TeC), David DeSante (DDeS), Richard A. Erickson, Michael L. Ezekiel, Carter L. Faust, Marc Fenner (MFe), George Finger (GFi), David A. Holway, Alan S. Hopkins, Tom Johnson (ToJ), Clay Kempf, Jeri M. Langham, David Lemon (DLe), Michael J. Lippsmeyer, Mike Mamoser (MMa), many observers (mob), John McConnell (JMC), Peter J. Metropulos, Joseph Morlan, Dan Nelson, Mary Nordstrom (MNo), Benjamin D. Parmeter, Lina J. Prairie, Peter Pyle, Harold M. Reeve, Debi Reinhardt, David C. Rice, Jean M. Richmond, Richard J. Richmond, Don Roberson, Robin E. Roberson, Mary Louise Rosegay, Phil Rostron (PhR), Shearwater Journeys, Maury Stern (MSn), Rich Stallcup, Robert M. Stewart, Ron S. Thorn (RSTh), Dorothy Tobkin, Bob Ulvang.

Please report observations to Northern California Rare Bird Alert: 528-0288 or 524-5592.

—HELEN GREEN

Observations Editor

2001 Yolo Ave., Berkeley, CA 94707



EAST BAY MUD IN THE MUCK

The shockingly tasteless "rainbird" commercial, heard on radio in the Bay Area in August, holding up environmentalists to ridicule and naming the "Emeryville Audubon Society", is an example of public servants who

serve the public badly. They seem to say they have met the enemy and it is us.

The protests to the East Bay Municipal Utility District Board of Directors must have been numerous and, if the copies that came our way are representative, vitriolic.

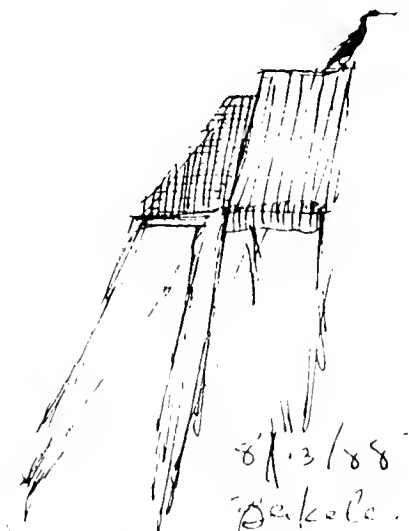
—Editor

CONSERVATION NOTES

HELP FOR WETLANDS

We would like to extend our great appreciation to Assemblyman Bill Baker (Contra Costa County) for his action on Senate Bill 45. Assemblyman Baker added on an amendment that will prevent any net loss of wetland acreage that might have occurred as a result of the new work planned for the Benicia-Martinez Bridge. We hope the Assemblyman will continue to lead the legislature into further protections for wetlands. Thank you Assemblyman Baker.

—ART FEINSTEIN
Conservation Chairman



A NEW CAMPAIGN

An exciting new bond initiative for East Bay Regional Parks will be on the November ballot. With a little bit of help from our membership, as with CAL P.A.W., we can win this extremely im-

portant issue, and Golden Gate Audubon urges your full support. The REGIONAL OPEN SPACE, WILDLIFE, SHORELINE AND PARKS BOND will be known as MEASURE AA both in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.

A YES vote on this measure will provide the East Bay Regional Park District with \$225 million to preserve some of the most important open space—ridgelines, shorelines, and wetlands—for wildlife habitat and public recreational use. Seventy-five percent of the bond sale proceeds will be used toward completion of the District's master plan: to acquire land for open space; to protect wildlife and its habitat; to preserve wetlands and Bay shoreline; and to acquire and improve parks, trails, and recreation facilities. These projects will be distributed equitably between Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. None of the money will be used for operational or salary expense.

A YES vote will allow the remaining 25% to be distributed, on a per capita population basis, to local recreation agencies to be used for local projects and open space acquisition.

A YES vote will cost local property owners an average of only \$5.63 per year, or 47 cents per month, per \$100,000 assessed valuation. A small price to preserve the beauty of our area and to enhance our quality of life for generations to come.

We will need some volunteer energy, very much like with the CAL P.A.W. initiative. Once again Bruce Walker will be coordinating the volunteer effort, and he asks that all of you volunteer a few hours of time between now and election day.

As of our publication deadline no campaign office has been established, so if you can help please call Barbara at the GGAS office, 843-2222, and she will pass your name along to the campaign. Also donations are being sought for this campaign. East Bay Regional Parks

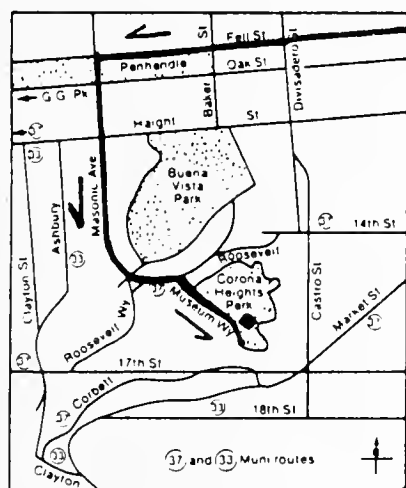
Board of Directors put the measure on the ballot, but the Park District is not allowed to spend it's time or money to get the bond passed, so it will be our job to turn this into a grassroots victory. If you have any questions feel free to call Bruce Walker at 654-9649.

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

The Secretary of State, March Fong Eu, has suggested that we note a new service of her office, and encourage everyone to register to vote. The service is a 24-hour phone number 1-800-345-VOTE. Anyone may call this number to receive a voter registration form.

SAN FRANCISCO MEETING SITE

The Josephine D. Randall Junior Museum is presently the regular meeting place in San Francisco. The map is reproduced for convenience in finding it at Museum Way.



BACK YARD BIRDER

One of our readers asked a complex question on migration which I hope to answer as best I can. The reasons for migration have always been a matter of conjecture. Without records pre-dating the Ice Age, we can only make educated guesses from fossil finds. Nearly all we know about birds' seasonal movements has been learned in this century. In ancient times, e.g., it was thought that swallows hibernated during winter in the mud or on the moon! Because of radar and bird banding, as well as jet travel and telecommunications, we have discovered some facts about migration. Still, we need to continue gathering information from observant birders in addition to the professionals.

Migration refers to regular, seasonal movements and is different from nomadism and irruption (see Back Yard Birder, February, 1983). It is extremely complex and somewhat mysterious. Migration is common among many animals but it is most obvious among bird species. There must have been valid reasons for bird migration, otherwise why would birds expend so much precious energy to make such long trips? Obviously, on one leg of most birds' journey, they are leaving an area where weather is becoming more harsh, reducing their food supply. But then why wouldn't nectar or insect-eating birds just stay where food is available year-round? Why fly thousands of miles (in some cases) twice a year, risking injury and/or life?

Each species evolved its migratory pattern in its own way, not necessarily at the same time, so the reasons for migration vary. There are two general explanations: Certain birds lived in areas of North America which was later covered during the Ice Age. They were

forced to move southward or they would perish as the glaciers advanced. As these same glaciers retreated, the birds followed an innate urge to return to their original ranges. Glaciers obviously had a great affect on migratory routes as seas, mountains and rivers were formed. Since most migration is from north to south and back, this could explain some birds' migratory behavior.

How about "our" breeding birds who winter in South America? They may have originated in the tropics but expanded north where there was less competition for food and territory. Therefore, when it cools off and food becomes scarce, they are compelled to return to (rather than retreat from) their place of origin. Good examples of this theory are hummers, flycatchers, orioles and tangers. These birds breed here in North America, then apparently "vacation" in South America. Since reproduction followed by migration is such strenuous activity, they spend their time in the south recovering. There is no doubt that migration was developed as a necessary strategy during a time when the climate was much different from today's.

To add to the confusion, there are birds which do not migrate at all, or do so on a very small scale; e.g., of 215 species of birds which nest in Michigan, less than 20 are non-migratory. Elsewhere, the House Sparrow, adult Mockingbird, Wren-tit and a few others are among those which are resident birds in an area. There are a number of arctic birds which remain in their nesting range. Snowy Owls, Willow Ptarmigan, Gray Jays, to name a few, will, however, occasionally stray southward during food shortages, a previously-mentioned phenomenon called irruption.

Birds are distributed according to

geological history; by physical barriers which restrict birds' movements (such as mountains or oceans); by climate or environmental conditions birds can or cannot tolerate; and by their own mobility, their unique power of flight. These distributions are changing as are patterns of migration. This is due to changes of climatic, ecological or environmental influences. All of us backyard birders have noticed that some birds are shortening or lengthening their stays and their routes, some are changing directions and some are eliminating migration altogether. The world is shrinking *even* for birds!

—MEG PAULETICH

AUDUBON TELEVISION

Audubon's acclaimed television specials reach more than 20 million people on SuperStation TBS and on public television stations. The Stroh Brewery Company has extended its sponsorship of the series for another two years. Audubon President Peter Berle writes "We are immensely grateful to Peter Stroh and the Stroh Brewery Company."

A new Audubon Special, *Sea Turtles: Ancient Nomads*, will air this fall on TBS Oct. 25 (9:05 p.m. Pacific Time).

A number of exciting new materials are also available from Audubon's Television Dept. ' videocassettes of the television specials with accompanying teacher's guides; *Life in Balance* by David Rains Wallace, the companion book to the specials; *Audubon Wildlife Adventures* computer software with activities designed to supplement the TV specials and an *Audubon TV News Bulletin* with complete information on TV programs and projects. For information, write Audubon Television, 801 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, Washington, DC 20003, or call (202) 546-9009.

NATIONAL AUDUBON TRAVEL

NAS has developed an exciting travel program. This year Audubon sent Sandy Sprunt, Pete Myers, Susan Drennan and other top ornithologists and naturalists from its staff to lead and lecture on trips to Patagonia, Baja, Antarctica, Alaska and other exotic locales.

Audubon trips are designed for individuals with a keen interest in the natural beauty and resources of the land and its peoples. In 1988-89, trips will be leaving for Australia, Greece, Indonesia and Africa, among other places. Check AUDUBON magazine for details, or write Jane Hund, Travel Administrator, NAS, 950 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022; (212) 546-9140.

LATE FALL BIRDING CLASSES

San Francisco

Evening birding classes will start again Oct. 27 at the Marina Middle School. Ornithology I is an introduction to avian biology starting Tuesday, Nov. 1. Ornithology II will cover shorebirds starting Wednesday, Nov. 2; and Ornithology III will cover woodpeckers and flycatchers starting Thursday, Oct. 27. All classes will meet weekly 7-9:30 in room 222. The school is at Fillmore and Bay with ample free parking. The instructor is **Joe Morlan**. Fees are \$40 for each seven-week class. Pre-register by calling 776-8247 or at the first class meeting. See *The GULL* for July-August for more information.

GOOD NEWS

Many thanks to all the interested people that called about the planned cancellation of the ornithology classes in San Francisco. In part because of the public support, the classes will be continued in the spring.

—JOE MORLAN

BIRD PHOTOGRAPHERS

The October meeting of BABP will be Wednesday, Oct. 5 at 7:30 pm. at Baylands with Dr. Denny Mallory presenting a program on the fauna and flora of the Mono Basin. On November 2, at the same place and time, Lee Hung will give an illustrated lecture on the birds of Taiwan, using slides taken by K. C. Wong, Taiwanese businessman. For information write the BABP at 1019 Loma Prieta Ct., Los Altos, CA 94022.

WFO ANNUAL MEETING

The Western Field Ornithologist's 13th annual meeting will be held 7-9 October 1988 at Casa Munras, Monterey, California. The program will include a special workshop on breeding-bird atlases. The Monterey area is famed for the variety of both ocean and land birds it attracts in early October, and the meeting will offer both pelagic and terrestrial field trips to see them. For further information telephone Debi Shearwater, (408) 688-1990 or write her at P.O. Box 1445, Soquel, CA 95073.



NATURE SOUNDS SOCIETY

The October program of the NSS at the Oakland Museum will be *Eternal Sands*, a multi-media presentation combining the nature photography of Candy Lowe with the new age electronic music and sound recordings of husband/collaborator Ron Alford. The eleven-minute production employs dissolve slides and coordinated sound to chronicle the phenomena of living sand dunes. A discussion of experiences and techniques involved with combining sound and visual effects will follow.

The program will take place in the James Moore Theatre at 1 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 22. A business meeting will follow. All interested persons are welcome. For more information telephone Paul Matzner at the Oakland Museum Natural Sciences Dept., 273-3884.

COOPERS SOCIETY

Steven D. Emslie of Point Reyes Bird Observatory will be the speaker at the next meeting of the Northern Chapter of the Cooper Ornithological Society on Monday, Oct. 17. The meeting will be at 8 p.m. at the Richardson Bay Audubon Sanctuary in Tiburon, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd. His topic will be the origin, evolution and extinction of condors in North America. Everyone is welcome.

WILD CALIFORNIA

The California Academy of Sciences will open a restored and updated section entitled *Wild California: A State of Diversity*. This is the old North American hall, which opened in 1916. Seventy-two years later, after more than two years of refurbishing, the display will be worth a visit. The opening will be Oct. 9.

GGAS WETLAND SERIES NOTE CARDS

Responding to Your numerous requests, and through the generosity of one of our own very talented fine artists, Deborah Cotter, GGAS proudly announces, in time for the holiday season, the GGAS Wetland Series of notecards. Ms. Cotter has donated for reproduction four of her bird paintings, Peregrine Falcons, Wood Ducks, the Clapper Rail and the Bonaparte's Gull. These high quality, full color cards are 5×7 inches, come with envelopes, and are packaged as a set of four for \$5.00 or singly for \$1.50. They will make fine gifts for friends or for your own use. Stop by the office to purchase some, or we will be glad to mail, at an additional charge. The cards will also be available at the Oct. Seed Sale in San Francisco and in Berkeley.

The Peregrine Falcon is reproduced at right, though the black and white does not give a full impression of this fine watercolor.

Deborah Cotter's work has been displayed at the Oakland Museum, at a special show at Elkhorn Slough Interpretive Center, and elsewhere, and she will be remembered as the designer of last year's Brown Towhee T-shirt for the Oakland Christmas Bird Count.

IN THIS ISSUE

The drawings scattered through this issue of *The GULL* are from the sketch books of Bruce Walker, one of the new members of GGAS board of directors, and a man of many talents. We hope to have more of his illustrations in future issues.



HAZARDOUS WASTE PAMPHLET

The GULL for June recommended a pamphlet (*A Citizen's Guide to Enforcement*) available from the State Health Services Dept. It develops that the Berkeley information phone people are not aware of the document and the Sacramento headquarters has fewer than twenty copies available at this time. Is this perhaps a measure of the State's interest in enforcement of hazardous waste laws? (A reorder, if made, would take two or three months to process.)

MONEY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Following up on the article in *The GULL* for June about the Environmental Federation of California (EFC), a payroll deduction and giving plan, I would like to urge all of us Audubon members to think about how we could get our work places involved with this program. It is like the United Way except the money given goes to environmental organizations such as ours. If we (GGAS) sign up a company for this giving program, then the majority of the first year's donations, from that company, goes to our chapter, after that the money will be split up among 20 California environmental groups including GGAS (we get 1/4 of 1/20th), so it is a win situation all around. It's interesting to note, too, that United Way does not lose when more than one giving program is in the work place, in fact they seem to get more money, so add another win to that last statement of mine.

All it takes for this to happen is for employees of a company, or governmental organization to request the EFC giving program be offered. The impor-

tant factor for us is to make sure that the company payroll deduction representative knows, and coordinates with Barbara in our office, that GGAS is the lead organization in instituting the program for that particular company.

We have asked once about the EFC program, and we didn't get much response, but it seems to be such a good idea that we wanted to remind you and ask you to think about how you could help. Perhaps it may be that you have a friend or relative that owns a business, or works where this giving program would work. Let us know so that we can work together to develop our leads.

—BRUCE WALKER

NAS PRESIDENT REPORTS

A Remarkable Year

The National Audubon Society, like most Audubon chapters, counts its years from summer to summer. The Society's fiscal year ends June 30th. This year, the budget process had special significance, for just one year ago we had to make cutbacks that included some painful losses of valuable personnel. Understandably, there was a period of turmoil, but, using the same tenacity, ingenuity, and energy that makes this Society such a great conservation organization, Audubon staff and members rallied to deal with the financial crisis. And I'm happy to report that the Audubon of today is healthier and stronger than the organization of one year ago.

We finished this last fiscal year solidly in the black, and the board has approved a balanced budget for the current year. The new budget provides for reestablishment of the Northeast Regional Office. In just one year's time, we have put our financial house in order. We did this by cutting costs and raising \$1.8 million more than in the previous year. But this struggle is not

over, given a \$30 million budget last year, we must raise an additional \$1.5 million just to stay even, assuming a 5% inflation rate.

The national board of directors has been restructured, bringing nine chapter-elected members with diverse skills onto this distinguished, policymaking panel.

Regional offices, which were affected by last year's budget cuts, have been augmented by regional teams made up of staff members from every department. While our regional staff is stretched far too thin, the whole organization is gaining a better appreciation of chapter activities through regional team participation. Another important thing has happened: Chapters are giving financial support directly to their regional offices—an investment that will pay back big dividends in chapter effectiveness.

The National Audubon Society has never had stronger programs. By bringing the strengths of every facet of the Society to bear on select issues, we have had a tremendous effect. Our efforts have focused on our five national high-priority campaigns: protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, stopping acid rain, conserving ancient forests, keeping water in the wildlife-rich Platte River, and saving wetlands.

Every department is flexing its muscles. The **Capitol Hill office** in Washington, D.C., after helping reauthorize a strong Clean Water Act, has been pouring its energy into reauthorization of two other flagship laws: the Clean Air Act and the Endangered Species Act. As I write this, negotiations are proceeding on both laws. Audubon's legislative analysts continue to work on dozens of other local, regional, national, and international issues. Singlehandedly, Audubon arranged for an appropriation of \$4.2 million to purchase water rights for the

Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge in Nevada. This is the first appropriation ever to buy water rights for wildlife.

The **Science Department** is seeing results from its groundbreaking research in areas such as energy policy and wildlife habitat management. The department has weighed in on the Arctic refuge and Platte River debates. In addition to its long-term field research project, the Science Department is looking ahead to problems such as global climate change and the environmental effects of biotechnology.

The **Sanctuary Department** has had a good year in rounding out some of our protected wildlife habitats. For example, using dedicated donations, we were able to purchase buffer areas around Beidler Sanctuary in South Carolina, a rare, virgin, bald-cypress swamp.

Most chapter members are aware of the success of the **Education Department's** Audubon Adventures program, because chapters sponsor many of the nearly 7,000 classrooms involved. In an exciting new initiative, Audubon educators are reaching out to Native American and innercity urban children.

Audubon's **Television Specials** now reach more than 20 million people and have won many awards for their excellence. The Television Department is collaborating with the Education Department in developing fascinating new computer software with an environmental education message.

Audubon magazine remains the most respected and elegant journal in the environmental field. Blockbuster issues on subjects such as the Arctic refuge and California wetlands are used by Audubon staff and members as education lobbying tools.

The **Audubon Activist Network** has grown into a powerful grassroots force that any chapter member can tap. Network members receive the bimonthly newspaper, *Audubon Activist*, and Ac-

tion Alerts directly from the Capitol Hill office when legislative issues reach critical junctures. Membership in this network, which gives you the tools and information necessary to be an effective conservationist, costs \$9 per year.

In all, it has been a remarkable year for the National Audubon Society. With your continued support, next year's report will show even more progress.

—PETER A. A. BERLE

NEWS FROM THE RANCH

Audubon Canyon Ranch (415) 868-9244
Shoreline Hwy., Stinson Beach, CA 94970

Many thanks to Jeanne Price for her "News From the Ranch" contributions during the past several years. Jeanne plans to continue as an active volunteer and member of the ACR Advisory Board.

The new bulletin from Audubon Canyon Ranch has been mailed to ACR contributors. This issue gives insights into the three primary preserves, the biologists who help guide their operation, and the many people who help make the Ranch a world class system of sanctuaries and environmental education facilities. A limited number of bulletins are still available from ACR (415) 868-9244.

Preliminary reports from Helen Pratt indicate the nesting season at ACR was about average. An exciting exception was the successful nesting of Snowy

Egrets for the first time since 1969. As many as 6 young were sighted toward the end of the season.

It may not be too late to participate in an ACR seminar this fall. Family programs include two sessions of "Experiencing Nature Together" on Oct. 9 and Nov. 12, and the annual "Family Halloween Celebration" on Oct. 29-30. "Coyote's People" (Oct. 15), will focus on Sonoma's native people, and "Introducing the Monarch" (Nov. 19), will certainly inform and stimulate participants about these beautiful insects. By the way, did you know ACR has two Monarch Butterfly preserves and only one heronry. "Work Days" are scheduled for Cypress Grove and Bolinas Lagoon Preserves on Nov. 5 and 12 respectively. What a great way to help ACR and enjoy our preserves. Both are free, but require advance registration. Of course the new year is just a few months away so it isn't too early to make that first resolution, the one you can keep. Join our "Third Annual Resolution Hike" at Bouverie Audubon Preserve on Jan. 1 For further information call ACR at (415) 868-9244.

Plans are being made to train Ranch Guides, those wonderful folks who help interpret various features of the Ranch on weekends during the public season. Watch for details.

—DAN MURPHY

GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

FOR GGAS

Gift of

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The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor of or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the GGAS Board of Directors. This includes their use for general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society including Audubon Canyon Ranch of which GGAS is a sponsor. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to Golden Gate Audubon Society, 1550 Shattuck Ave., #204, Berkeley, CA 94709. All gifts are tax deductible. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations and bequests will be acknowledged in *The Gull* as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Secretary.

**OCTOBER 22
FALL SEED SALE**

Our fine quality birdseed is finally available again at our same reasonable (pre-drought) prices! We suggest that you order in advance and prepay to assure that the mix you want is there for you. Extra seed will be available at our

pick-up locations. In **Berkeley**, the sale site is 1418 Josephine St. between Vine and Rose streets. Josephine Street is one block west of Martin Luther King Way—hours 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. In **San Francisco** the sale site is our supplier's store, OHS Bulk Foods, 2651 Mission St. between 21st and 22nd streets—hours 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

GGAS BIRD SEED AND FEEDER SALE

ORDER AND PREPAY BY OCTOBER 14 / PICK UP ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Telephone (day) _____ (evening) _____

☐ Berkeley ☐ San Francisco

SEED			QUANTITY	AMOUNT
GGAS' OWN PREMIUM MIX	20 lbs.	\$ 7.00		
	50 lbs.	\$14.00		
VOLKMAN WILD BIRD SEED	20lbs.	\$ 9.00		
	50 lbs.	\$19.00		
BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEED	10 lbs.	\$ 9.00		
	25 lbs.	\$21.00		
NIGER (THISTLE SEED)	5lbs.	\$ 9.50		

FEEDERS

DROLL YANKEE 16"	\$25.00		
DROLL YANKEE Hummingbird feeder	\$10.00		
PERKY-PET Hummingbird feeder	\$14.00		
THISTLE SOCK	\$ 3.00		

Be sure to include
your check with a
stamped and self-
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THE GULL

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Tom White, ex officio
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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RARE BIRD ALERT (recorded) (415) 528-0288 Update: 524-5592

Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to GGAS office.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$30 per year (individual); \$38 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$8 per year; single issues \$1. High school and college student membership \$18 per year. Senior citizen individual \$21, senior citizen family \$23. Associate Membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society, \$10 per year.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917,
and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month, and July 15th for September issue.